

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, and 11-15 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1, 7, and 11-15, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience. In keeping with the changes to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 to implement the Patent Business Goals, the claims that are not presently being amended will not have a parenthetical expression following the claim number.

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1. (Twice Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a communicator for performing two-way communications with an image output unit that includes an update unit for updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit and a memory for storing the condition information, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches;
an input unit for inputting an image output instruction;
an acquisition unit for acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing the two-

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way communications, in response to the image output instruction;
and

an image processor for performing image processing of
image data in accordance with the condition information acquired
by said acquisition unit.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
image output unit comprises:

an engine unit;

an engine unit;
a condition acquisition unit for automatically
acquiring the condition information in accordance with a change
in status of the engine unit; and

a storage unit for storing the acquired condition
information.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
condition information is a measurement result of a plurality of
patches output by the image output unit.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
image processor converts image data into multi-valued data
corresponding to a type of a recording medium used in the image
output unit, and performs image processing in accordance with the

condition information.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said image processor quantizes the image data which has undergone the image processing in accordance with the condition information.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a user interface for setting whether or not the image processing is done in accordance with the condition information.

32-5-5 (2) 7. (Twice Amended) An image processing apparatus connected, via a communication network, with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit for inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

a memory for storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

a transmitter for transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for

acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer;
and

22 a management unit for managing an image output job of
the host computer,

wherein the condition information is obtained by
forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, further
comprising a second management unit for managing an image output
job for an image output unit.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein each
of the plurality of image output units comprises:

an engine unit;

7E. a condition acquisition unit for automatically
acquiring the condition information in accordance with a change
in status of the engine unit; and

a memory for storing the acquired condition
information.

10. The apparatus according to claim 7, further
comprising:

a user interface for setting whether or not image

processing is done in accordance with the condition information.

5.3 (3)
23
11. (Twice Amended) An image processing method for performing image processing in a network system to which an image output apparatus, a server, and a network terminal are connected, said method comprising:

in the image output apparatus:

a condition measurement function of updating condition information by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches; and

a notification function of notifying the server of the updated condition information,

in the server:

a storage function of storing the updated condition information notified from the image output apparatus in correspondence with a type of the image output apparatus; and

a management function of managing an image output job, and

in the network terminal:

an input function of inputting an image output instruction of a user;

an acquisition function of acquiring the updated condition information stored in the server in response to the

image output instruction; and

an image processing function of performing image processing using an image processing condition in accordance with the updated condition information.

23
12. (Twice Amended) An image processing method for making an image output unit output an image, wherein the image output unit includes an update unit for updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit and a memory for storing the condition information, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image output instruction;

acquiring the condition information stored in the image output unit by utilizing two-way communications, in response to the image output instruction; and

performing image processing of image data in accordance with the condition information acquired in said acquiring step,

wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches.

13. (Twice Amended) An image processing method performed in a server connected, via a communication network,

with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each image output unit having a function of updating condition information of the image output unit, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting the condition information updated by the plurality of image output units;

storing the inputted condition information in association with each of the plurality of image output units;

transmitting the stored condition information to the host computer in accordance with a request for acquiring the condition information issued by the host computer; and

managing an image output job of the host computer, wherein the condition information is obtained by forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches.

14. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for implementing, by a computer, an image processing method, the program comprising:

code for a communication function of performing two-way communications with an image output unit having means for updating condition information indicating a condition of the image output unit and means for storing the condition information, wherein the condition information is obtained by

forming color patches and measuring colors on the color patches;
code for an input function of inputting an image
output instruction;

code for an acquisition function of acquiring the
condition information stored in the image output unit by
utilizing the two-way communications, in response to the image
output instruction; and

code for an image processing function of performing
image processing of image data in accordance with the condition
information acquired by the acquisition function.

15. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage
medium that stores a program for an image processing method
performed by a server connected, via a communication network,
with a host computer and a plurality of image output units, each
image output unit having a function of updating condition
information of the image output unit, the program comprising:

code for an input function of inputting the condition
information updated by the plurality of image output units;

code for a storage function of storing the inputted
condition information in association with each of the plurality
of image output units;

code for a transmission function of transmitting the